
Adult Trauma Emergencies: Activation of the 'GO TEAM'



Note Well: *The George Washington University Medical Center and Howard University Hospital have developed the capability to deploy a 2 - 3 member team into the field to assist with unusual medical incidents. These situations will most commonly involve prolonged extrication of entrapped patient(s). With its advanced pharmaceutical and equipment cache, the team has been designed to integrate with the DC Fire & EMS crews to achieve optimum patient care safely in the pre-hospital arena.*



*In order to meet the deployment window of 45 minutes, it is important that the decision to activate the GO TEAM be made **within the first 10 minutes on scene by the EMS Supervisor**. This is due to the inherent delay in arranging backup coverage for the responding team and collecting the advanced medical cache.*

I. Criteria for Activation

1. Incident site must be within the legal boundaries of the District of Columbia.
2. The decision to activate the team must be made by the EMS Supervisor.
3. The EMS Medical Director, the EMS Chief and EMS Deputy Chief must all be notified immediately.

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II. Incident Criteria for Activation

1. One of the following criteria must be met in order to activate the GO TEAM.
 - A. Anticipated prolonged extrication of patient(s).
 - i. Greater than 1 hour.
 - B. Completion of amputation of entrapped extremity is required.
 - C. Concern for crush syndrome.
 - i. Entrapment or immobilization for greater than 2 hours.
 - D. Advanced airway management due to chest trauma is required.
 - E. Additional treatment support for any mass casualty incident (MCI).



Note Well: *Pain management is helpful in prolonged extrication. Activation of the GO TEAM should not preclude the provider's ability to provide analgesics.*

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III. Method of Deploying the GO TEAM

1. All calls should be made either through the George Washington University Medical Center's Emergency Department at 715-4911 or the Howard University Emergency Department at 865-1141.
2. The attending Emergency Physician on duty is the point of contact.
3. The incident location, number of patients, the patients conditions, and any other pertinent information should be provided.
4. The on duty Emergency Physician will then decide, based on the available resources, whether the team will be deployed.
 - A. The physician will inform the caller of the decision on being able to respond to the incident.
5. Once a decision has been made to deploy the team, transportation to the incident will be provided by the department.



Note Well: *Dependent on the scene location, weather, time requirements and other factors, consider the use of a helicopter to transport the GO TEAM to the incident scene.*

- A. The pickup point for the team is the Emergency Department.
 - B. The deployment will not exceed 45 minutes.
6. The GO TEAM will coordinate with the Treatment Officer upon arrival on the scene.

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III. Method of Deploying the GO TEAM (continued)

7. If the patient is stable, all attempts will be made to transport the patient to the hospital of the GO TEAM.
 - A. If this is not possible, the patient will be transported to the closest appropriate open facility.



Note Well: *It is mandatory that one physician member of the GO TEAM accompany the patient to the receiving facility*

8. Transportation of the GO TEAM back to their hospital of origin will be provided by the DC Fire & EMS Department.